DARE/ICAR will be able to absorb the projected funds and after this period, will develop the capacity to absorb the entire allocation of 1% of Agricultural GDP. The Department is continuously pursuing the matter with Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance to meet the projected requirement of funds during the balance period of Ninth Plan and the Tenth Plan.

Promoting Bio-Fertilizers

†2734. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the programme being run by Government to promote eco-friendly bio-fertilizers;

(b) whether press-mud effluents of sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh are being used in manufacturing bio-fertilizers;

(c) if so, what assistance is being given by Government to sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh to increase sugarcane production; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating to run incentive programmes in this direction in other States also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Department of Agriculture is implementing during 9th plan, a continuing Central Sector Scheme entitled National Project on Development & Use of Biofertilisers. Under this scheme non-recurring grant upto Rs. 20 lakhs is being given for setting up biofertiliser production units upto 150 tonnes capacity per year by Agro Industries/cooperatives/public sector undertakings of fertilizers, NGOs and private entrepreneurs. The targeted capacity of 4500 Metric tonnes of biofertiliser production during 9th plan has been sanctioned. In addition, under Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilisers, the Government was assisting in setting up of compost plants in urban areas. The scheme has been transferred to States

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

under Macro Management Mode of implementing the schemes w.e.f. October, 2000. Government is also assisting for setting up of vermicompost units under the Technology Mission for Horticulture for North Eastern States.

(b) to (d) The sugarcane press mud is being promoted for use as manure under the provisions of the Sugarcane Press Mud (Control) Order, 1959. Government is providing financial assistance at concessional rate of interest from Sugar Development Fund for various Cane Development Schemes.

Veterinary Hospital at Kalikapur

2735. SHRI R.P GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a State-of-the-art veterinary hospital is proposed to be built on 4.4 acres of land at Kalikapur, to treat neglected, sick or abandoned animals;

(b) what is the cost of setting up such a hospital, of running is subsequently and what would be the contributions from the Central and State Government; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there are a large number of poor and destitute people who do not get proper medical attention; if so, the reasons for higher priority to veterinary hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The State Government of West Bengal has informed that there is no proposal for construction of a State-of-the-art veterinary hospital at Kalikapur under Sonarpur Development Block in the South 24 Paraganas District of the State.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.